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The Kansas News.

SATURDAY: FEBRUARY 27, 1858.

A New Constitutional Convention.

An Act to provide for the election of Delegates to a Convention to frame a State Constitution.

Be it enacted by the Governor and Legislative Assembly of the Territory of Kansas:

SECTION 1. That an election shall be held throughout the Territory of Kansas, on the second Tuesday of March, A. D. 1858, for the election of delegates to a Convention to frame a Constitution for the State of Kansas.

Sec. 2. The Convention shall be composed of one hundred members, and the Territory shall be divided into districts, and delegates apportioned to them as follows:

Leavenworth, 13; Douglas and Johnson, 13; Doniphan, 8; Atchison, 5; Brown, 3; Nemaha, 2; Marshall, 1; Riley, 3; Pawnee, 2; Caldwell, 2; Dickinson, 1; Clay and Washington, 1; Butler and Hunter, 1; Weller, 1; McGee, 1; Dorn, 1; Wise, 1; Greenwood, 1; Wilson and Godfrey, 1; Davis, 1; Madison, 1; Breckinridge, 3; Richardson, 2; Woodson, 1; Coffey, 3; Shawnee, 6; Anderson, 3; Franklin, 2; Bourbon and Allen, 5; Linn, 4; Lykins, 4; Jefferson, 4.

Sec. 3. That the several precincts in each county or district shall be defined, and places of voting established, and three judges in each appointed by the Commissioners selected by the Governor, under an act entitled, "An act submitting the Constitution framed at Leecompton," under the act of the Legislative Assembly of Kansas Territory, entitled "an act to provide for taking a census, and of election of delegates to a Convention," passed February 19th, 1857, as far as may be applicable to the districts aforesaid, as follows:

and it is hereby made the duty of the Secretary of the Territory to forward a copy of this act to each of the persons above named, immediately upon the passage of this act.

Sec. 4. That it shall be the duty of the commissioners hereinafter appointed, to give public notice, by posting written or printed bills in three public places in each precinct in their several counties or districts, indicating the time and places of holding such election, stating the names of the persons selected as judges, at least ten days before the day designated in this act for the election of delegates. If any judge of the election so appointed shall fail or refuse to perform the duties of his appointment, the legal voters assembled at the place, and on the day appointed for said election shall have power to fill such vacancy by election from their own number; and it shall be the duty of the judges of election, in all the precincts throughout the Territory, to open the polls at 9 o'clock A. M., and keep them open till 6 o'clock P. M.

Sec. 5. That the judges of election shall each, before entering upon the discharge of their duties, make oath or affirmation that they will faithfully and impartially discharge the duties of judges of the election, according to law, which oath or affirmation shall be administered by any officer authorized by law to administer oaths, or by one of their own body. They shall appoint two clerks, who shall take the like oath or affirmation, to be administered by one of the judges of the election, and whose duty it shall be to keep each a correct list of the voters who may vote at such election. A certificate of the oath taken by the judges, as herein required, shall be attached to and returned with the poll books.

Sec. 6. Any voter shall have the right to challenge the right of any person offering to vote, and the person so challenged shall, before he shall be permitted to vote, be required to answer, under oath, to be administered by one of the judges of election, all questions put by the judges or their order, touching his right to vote, or whether he has voted in any other precinct during the same day, and evidence contradicting his statements may be introduced, for which purpose the judges are hereby empowered to administer oaths, and if satisfied that he is attempting to vote fraudulently, the judges shall exclude him vote.

Sec. 7. That the vote shall be by ballot, on which shall be written or printed the names of the persons voted for as delegates, which ballots, immediately on the reception thereof by the judges, shall be by them deposited in a ballot box, to be by said judges provided for that purpose. At the close of the polls the judges shall proceed, publicly, to count the ballots, and shall certify the number of votes each person may have received, which certificate, attested by the clerks, together with one of the original poll books and tally list, they shall, within two days after said election, forward by one of said judges, to one of the commissioners herein appointed for their county or district; the other poll book and tally list, and the ballots cast at the election, shall be kept by one of the judges six days for public inspection. It shall be the duty of the commissioners herein appointed, within ten days after the election, to deliver all such returns to the Governor of the Territory, the President of the Council, or the Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Legislative Assembly.

Sec. 8. That it shall be the duty of the Governor, the President of the Council and Speaker of the House of Representatives, or any two of them, to examine and count up the returns from the several counties or districts, make proclamation of the result of said election, and give certificates of election to the persons having the highest number of votes in their respective districts.

Sec. 9. That the elective franchise at any election held under the provisions of this act, may be exercised by all the male inhabitants of the Territory, over the age of twenty-one years, being citizens of the United States, or having lawfully declared their intentions of becoming such, who shall have resided in this Territory thirty days, and in the county where they may offer to vote, ten days next preceding the election at which they may offer to vote; and any

THE KANSAS NEWS.

"THE PEOPLE ALWAYS CONQUER."

BY P. B. PLUMB.

EMPORIA, KANSAS, FEBRUARY 27, 1858.

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qualified voter under the provisions of this

act, may be a delegate in said Convention.

Sec. 10. That if any person, by menace, threats, or force, or by any other unlawful means, shall, directly or indirectly, attempt to influence any qualified voter in giving his vote, or deter him from getting to the polls, or disturb or hinder him in the full exercise of his right of suffrage at said election, the person so offending shall be adjudged guilty of misdemeanor, and punished by fine not less than five hundred dollars, or by imprisonment not less than three nor more than six months, or by both.

Sec. 11. That any person, not being a qualified voter, according to the provisions of this act, who shall vote at the election herein provided for, knowing that he is not entitled to vote, and every person who shall vote more than once at either of said elections, whether at the same or different places, shall be adjudged guilty of a misdemeanor, and punished by a fine of not less than one hundred dollars nor more than two hundred dollars, or by imprisonment not less than three nor more than six months, or by both.

Sec. 12. That any person who, whether a qualified voter or not, shall knowingly and willfully commit any fraud or irregularity whatsoever, with the intent to hinder, prevent or defeat a free expression of the popular will in said election, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and shall be punished by a fine not less than five hundred dollars nor more than one thousand dollars, or imprisonment not less than six nor more than twelve months, or by both.

Sec. 13. That the delegates thus elected shall assemble in Convention at the Capital on the fourth Tuesday of March next, and shall proceed to frame a Constitution for the State of Kansas, which shall be republican in form, for admission into the Union, on an equal footing with the original States in all respects whatsoever, by the name of the State of Kansas; said Convention shall provide for an election of State officers and members of a General Assembly, to be chosen at the same time and under the same regulations as provided in the vote on the ratification of the Constitution; the Constitution thus framed shall be submitted to a full and fair vote of the qualified electors, under the provisions of this act, on the third Tuesday of May next; said election shall be held at the same precincts, by the same judges, under the same regulations concerning the return and counting the votes as hereinbefore provided for the election of delegates. If the Constitution thus framed and submitted shall be approved by a majority of the legal voters of the Territory, a copy of the same, certified by the President and Secretary of the Convention, together with a memorial framed by said Convention, asking admission into the Union under said Constitution, and a certified statement of the vote on the ratification thereof, shall be forwarded, as soon as practicable, by the Governor, President of the Council, and Speaker of the House of Representatives, or any two of them, to the President and Congress of the United States. If the Constitution thus framed, submitted and ratified, shall be accepted by the Congress of the United States, then and in that case the General Assembly elected under said Constitution shall assemble and hold its first session at the city of Topeka at the expiration of sixty days after the date of such acceptance and admission by Congress of the United States, unless sooner convened by the Governor elect under the Constitution thus framed and ratified.

Sec. 14. That the delegates of said Convention, when assembled, shall elect a presiding officer and all other officers necessary for the transaction of their business, and the members and officers of the Convention shall receive, during the time they shall be in attendance on said Convention, the same amount for their services as the members and officers of the Territorial Legislature, and the same amount of mileage for every twenty miles necessarily traveled in going to and returning from the same.

This act to be in force from and after its passage.

G. W. DEITZLER,
Speaker of the House.

C. W. BABCOCK,
President of the Council.

The Bad Lands of Nebraska.

Prof. Wharton of Kenyon College, contributes to the Protestant Episcopal Quarterly Review for this month, a brief, but highly interesting article on the "Mauvaises Terres," or Bad Lands of Nebraska. He maintains that "so far as the occupation of arable lands is concerned," (on this side of the Rocky Mountains) "we have reached the extreme limit of our territorial extension striking westward from the Missouri valley." The eastern slope of the Rocky Mountains is bounded by a vast extent of rainless plains. Between these plains and the head waters of the Missouri, lie the very remarkable deserts above named; a formation found in Central and Northern Nebraska, in Western Kansas and Arkansas. This formation, belonging to the age known by geologists as the Early Tertiary, is described as a basin of fossil cemeteries, sinking nearly two hundred feet below the adjacent surface, and covered with an infinite series of minaret-looking peaks, some jutting up 200 feet. The fossil remains here found, indicate that this region was inhabited by gigantic animals, vastly superior in size to those of the age of the Mastodon and the Mammoth; and differing in their specific character, not only from these and all living animals, but also from all fossil obtained from contemporaneous geological formation. At the time these monsters lived in what were the tropical forests of this region, there were but a few islands where are now the continents of what we call "the Old World;" while our Atlantic coast, up to the base of the Alleghenies, was submerged beneath the ocean.

Among the inmates of the Bridgewater State Almshouse, is a man by the name of Shay, who has been there for about two years, and who, although able to speak, has for that long period remained dumb, not having once opened his lips. What are his motives for this enforced silence we do not learn.—*Boston Traveller.*

Swiss Immigration to Missouri.

It is with much pleasure that we re-publish the subjoined item of intelligence, which we find in the columns of our contemporary of the *Evening News*. It chronicles the beginning of a most remunerative and needed branch of manufacture in the west, and those who will reflect for a moment upon the immense quantities of wool grown in the valley of the Mississippi, and the still greater quantities that must hereafter be produced on the vast stretches of pastoral lands reaching to the base of the Rocky mountains, will be inclined to wonder why its manufacture has not been before attempted in the west. There is no reason, why the seat and center of its production should not also be selected as the points most eligible for converting it into fabrics and merchandise. The *News* says:

"Thomas Allen, Esq., has recently sold his property, commonly called 'Cheltenham,' about five miles out on the Pacific railroad, to a colony of Swiss, numbering about fifty, who mean to establish there a manufactory for fabricating woollen yarns and goods, of a superior quality. Specimens of yarns, such as they manufacture, exhibit wonderful strength and fineness.

The grounds attached—about 30 acres—will be divided into gardens, and cultivated in garden vegetables and fruits by the colony, for their support.

This movement is one of considerable interest, and may result in the introduction of an important branch of manufactures, to be added to our city's trade, as well as lead to the growth of a large village of the most skillful European artisans in our vicinity. Thus, by degrees, our country may, in the future, become free from the necessity of foreign imports.

The price paid for 'Cheltenham,' embracing the buildings and 30 acres of land, was \$25,000."

In regard to this Swiss colony we may remark one other fact. More than a year ago, a very large body of Swiss emigrants had collected at Cincinnati and dispatched agents throughout the northwest to choose lands for their future home. At the moment, however, their attention was directed to the free labor movement in Missouri, and the promise of its speedy emancipation, as well as the vast resources of the state, which the discussion of that question brought under their observation, induced some of their more enterprising leaders to visit this state, and the result is just beginning to be felt. One colony, if we are rightly informed, has already purchased, or is in treaty for several thousand acres of land in the southwest; another for a like quantity in the southeast, and the third, as we see has completed its bargain for the site of Cheltenham. The establishment of such pioneer settlements will do much to attract hither the industrious and thrifty of their countrymen, who are inferior to no class of citizens who migrate from Europe, and thus we have promise of a vast accession to the industrial force of the state. This is one of the first fruits of the free soil and free labor movement; what can the fire-eaters show as an equally beneficial result of their favorite doctrine of slavery propaganda?—*Missouri Democrat.*

Remarkable Lake in Iowa.

A lake, known as Walled Lake, situated in Wright county, Iowa, is a great curiosity. It is in the midst of a vast plain—the rich, gently undulating prairie extending for many miles in every direction. The Lake covers an area of about nineteen hundred acres. The water is clear and cold, with a hard, sandy bottom, from two to twenty-five feet deep. There is a strip of timber about half way round it, probably ten rods wide, being the only timber in many miles. There is a wall of stone around it.

It is no accidental matter. It has been built with human hands. In some places the land is higher than the lake, in which case the wall only amounts to something like a 'rip rap' protection. This, I believe, is what engineers call it. But in other places the water is higher in the Lake than in the prairie outside of the wall. The wall in some places is ten feet high; it is thirteen feet wide at the base, sloping up both sides to five feet wide at the top. It is built entirely of boulders, from three tons in size down to fifty pounds. They are what is called 'lost rock.' I am no geologist, and consequently can give no learned description of them. They are not, however, natives 'to the manor born.' Nor has the wall been made by the washing away of the earth and leaving the rocks. There is no native rock in the region. Besides, this is a continuous wall, two miles at least, of which is higher than the land. The top of the wall is level, while the land is undulating—so the wall is in some places two feet and in others ten feet high. These rocks, many of them at least, must have been brought a great distance—probably five or ten miles. In Wright county, the 'lost rocks' are pretty freely scattered, but as you approach the Lake they disappear—showing that they have been gathered by some agency—when or by whom, history will never unfold.—Some of the largest oaks in the grove are growing up through the wall, proving the rocks in, in some cases outside, in others accommodating their shape to the rocks.—The Lake abounds in excellent fish. The land of the township in which it is belongs to the government.

When I was there in the spring of 1830, the wind had blown a large piece of ice against the South West part of the wall and knocked down, so that the water was running out, and flooding the farms of some of the settlers, and they were about to repair the wall to protect their crops. It is a beautiful farm land nearly all around this lovely Lake.—The wall around this Lake is not as regular and nice as that around the Fountain in front of the City Hall in New York, nor need any entertain the theory that it is a natural wall; it has been built hundreds, perhaps thousands of years. The antiquarian may speculate by whom this mighty, as well as ornamental work was done, but it will only be speculation. Notwithstanding the water in the Lake is pure and cool, there is no visible feeder or outlet.

The parakeet, a bird resembling the parrot, are numerous in the forests of Kansas.

The Free State Idea.

Different motives have, undoubtedly, actuated different men in the support of the Free State party. Some have acted with that party, because it was the popular side—because there was to be found the intelligence, virtue and numerical strength of the people. Others have done so, because they desired Kansas to be a Free State, merely on economical grounds—because houses, lots and farms would be worth more in a Free State than in a Slave State. Others were exasperated and disgusted with the fraud and villainy practised by the Pro-Slaveryites in order to defeat the popular will. Others have seen, or fancied they saw, in the pre-emptive power and influence of the Free State party the sure road to official promotion. But, over and beyond all these influences, other and more numerous than all these classes, the great rank and file of the Free State party, the bone and sinew of the organization, has been composed of men who hate Slavery, and love Liberty; and that hatred and love is not based upon low, mercenary considerations—upon the value of town lots and prairie claims, but upon the inherent wrongfulness of Slavery and the inherent rightfulness of Liberty. In other words, the Anti-slavery idea has been and is the great informing idea of the Free State movement. It is this which has given that movement such tenacity—such unyielding obstinacy of purpose—such moral power—such invincibility. It is this which has enabled it to withstand the barbarous outrages of the Border Ruffians on the one hand, and the corrupting and debasing influences of selfish and hypocritical demagoguism, on the other. It is this which will finally carry it triumphant over all opposition, to complete and glorious success.

A great victory will finally be achieved here. This will finally be a Free State.—All the John Calhoun Constitutions in Christendom, backed up by all the Leecompton woodpile returns and Jack Henderson forgeries that can be made till doomsday, will never make Kansas a Slave State. The popular movement for freedom and free institutions may be momentarily checked, but only to rush onward again with increased and overwhelming volume. Conservatism, falsely so called, and Democracy, more falsely so called, may each strive to turn aside this great current of the popular feeling and will, but it will be in vain. The People of Kansas hate and loathe the very name of "Democracy." It has become to them, and justly so, the synonym of all that is cruel, treacherous, hypocritical, debased and damnable. Every outrage that they have suffered, every wrong that they have endured, the utter prostration of all their rights, the cruel mockery of their sufferings—all has been in the name and for the sake of "Democracy!" Great Heaven! The Free State party to go into the ranks of the Democracy! It would have been as reasonable for the victorious army of Washington at Yorktown, to have gone over to the defeated and despised legions of Cornwallis, Tarleton and the Tories. No; in the grand victory which shall surely be won upon these central plains and prairies of the continent, you shall behold the triumph, the glorious and complete triumph, of the one, grand, central idea, which has loomed up amid the whole contest, giving to it immortal energy and ceaseless renown—the idea of Liberty—pure, true, undefiled REPUBLICAN LIBERTY!—*Lawrence Republican.*

Increase of the Army.

A bill was pending in the Senate to increase the army. Mr. Toombs obtained the floor and said:

There was no necessity for the passage of the bill on account of Indian hostilities, for there had not been an embodiment of Indians within the country for twenty-five years past which was capable of fighting 2,000 men. With regard to the Mormon troubles, he deemed it ridiculous to suppose that Brigham Young is able to compete with 3,000 U. S. troops; hence, there was no necessity of an increase on that score. In alluding to the remarks of Mr. Iverson, yesterday, who said if it had not been for the troops in Kansas the abolitionists would have been exterminated, and to those of Mr. Chandler, who thought if such had been the case, a fearful retaliation would have been visited on the border settlements of Missouri; he remarked that he would not enter into any controversy on those points, but he would not vote to give a single man for the purpose of maintaining peace in Kansas, whoever might hold the power there. Experience and history for centuries had demonstrated that order maintained by regular soldiers was despotism, and peace only thus maintained was the cemetery of liberty. He would not maintain peace in Kansas on such terms, nor have order at no such cost. If freedom could not maintain peace among themselves, they were unworthy of the exercise of self-government. They were not fit to be freemen. A regular army had always been an instrument of despotism. There was not a despotic government in Europe that could stand 90 days without it. He earnestly expressed opposition to regular soldiery, except so far as was actually necessary for its common office.

The Red Petticoat in St. Louis.

We understand that the red petticoat has made its appearance in St. Louis. Its presence here has been suspected for several days, and a vigilant watch has been kept to detect it. Yesterday a gust of wind revealed it fluttering on Fourth street.

The progress of this garment is astonishing. Starting from the highlands of Scotland, it has made its way to Windsor Castle in England; thence over the water to Washington City, where it exhibited itself in conjunction with the person of my Lady Ouseley; and thence across the Alleghenies to St. Louis, where it is now, a fact as "fixed" as pins and strings can make it.

The nobles of Padolia, Volhynia, and of the Ukraine, have followed the example of those of the Governments of Wilna, Rowno, Grodno, and St. Petersburg, and have addressed a memorial to the Emperor praying for the enfranchisement of their serfs.

Western Manufactures.

If as philosophers say "there is good in things evil," it is not improbable that the monetary convulsions which have lately befallen us may eventually result to our advantage, and the golden West, rich in all the natural elements of prosperity, may reasonably expect that the present trouble will be but temporary both in its duration and effects. It may even be doubted if the present partial stagnation is not but as a cloud which ushers in a new and more permanent era of sunshine and prosperity. The rich and undeveloped resources of the West, will offer strong inducements to the merchant and manufacturer, tired of the unprofitable and exhausted operations of the Eastern States, and it is to this class particularly that the West now offers a warm welcome and a rich reward. Heretofore the emigration to the West has consisted principally of agriculturists, who, while they have developed the productive capacity of our fertile prairies, have contributed comparatively but little to those manufacturing and commercial enterprises which would render us independent of our foreign friends, who have always found in the West a market for those manufactured wares which we had neither the machinery or the skill requisite to produce. True they received our surplus products in payment, but at a price which, after deducting the expense of transportation, both on the grain exported and the merchandise imported, left but a small profit to the West. An advocate of "free trade" might assert that this interchange of exports and imports promoted the wealth of both the East and the West, but this argument, fallacious in general is particularly inapplicable to the present case. The manufacturing and commercial systems of the sea-board States, are in intimate and mutually dependent relations with similar systems in other countries, and between them is carried on an exchange of luxury and taste as yet comparatively unknown to the West; but the operations of the East depend entirely on the West for those supplies of agricultural productions necessary for their daily subsistence and by repaying us in goods of Eastern manufacture, have been enabled to draw from us our surplus wealth. Manufactures and commerce are the keystone of national wealth, but why should we pay the expense of transportation of supplies to a portion of the Eastern operatives, the products of whose labor is by another expensive transportation returned to us in payment, when these same operatives could so much more cheaply be maintained in our midst, and the prosperity of our towns and cities be promoted by their residence among us?

The inducements to develop the manufacturing resources of the West were never more encouraging than at the present time. The capitalists and manufacturers of the East are looking for new fields of operations in which to retrieve the losses of the late reversals. Thousands of that class of operatives, in which the West has heretofore been deficient, would now gladly commence their emigration westward could they feel certain of obtaining employment at the peculiar labor for which they are best fitted, and to which they have been accustomed.

It requires but little investigation to show the feasibility and profit of manufacturing in the West, and it is to be hoped that subject will receive the attentive consideration of men of enterprise, and that hereafter our imports may be superseded by articles of our own manufacture, and our exports be repaid to us in the specie and tangible wealth which has heretofore been drained from us by our manufacturing friends at the East.—*Davenport Gazette.*

A Great Windfall—\$17,000,000.

Thomas Winans, of Baltimore, says the *Clipper* of that city, has, it learns, recovered a claim of \$5,000,000 against the Russian Government, which makes his share of the proceeds from freight and passenger travel over the railroads of that country reach the sum of \$17,000,000, drafts for which on the banks of Europe have been brought on to him. It appears that in his contract with Russia, he was to receive a certain per centage on all freight and passenger travel, but it was thought by the Government that they were exempted from this tax when applied to the transportation of soldiers to take part in the war of the Crimea. He accordingly engaged the services of John H. B. Latrobe, Esq., who went and recovered the claim by due course of law, and on account of the many thousand soldiers transported, his proportion was swelled from twelve to seventeen millions. Mr. Latrobe, we understand, received a fee of \$10,000 a month independent of his expenses, and upon reaching Baltimore and announcing the result of his labors, was presented with a check for \$100,000.

LIVING IN CLOVER.—Mrs. Swissheim, formerly editress of the *Pittsburg Visitor*, is now living at St. Cloud, Minnesota, from which place she writes:

"There is a very good supply of cattle here, and the beef killed off the prairie is quite equal to any stall-fed I have ever eaten. This is selling at ten cents a pound all round; fine venison at fourteen for haunches and ten for fore-quarters; rabbits, twice as large as in western Pennsylvania, ten cents apiece. Pigeons I grow tired of, and pheasants I care nothing about—the meat is too white. Wild ducks and prairie hens are delicious, and we have a fair supply.—But the fish! Mr. M. with two others speared fish two hours last spring, and his share of the proceeds was something over a barrel of cleaned fish, principally pike and pickerel. In half an hour I caught three bass, so much alike that one could scarcely distinguish them, and each weighing from two to three ounces of four pounds. The whole face of the country is interspersed with lakes and rivers teeming with fish."

It has been calculated by Professor Baché, of the U. S. Coast Survey, that the waves of the sea travel at the rate of six and a half miles a minute.

JOB PRINTING.

The office of THE KANSAS NEWS is furnished with a complete assortment of the newest styles of Type, Borders, Flourishes, Cuts, Cards, Fancy Papers, Colored Inks, Bronze, &c., enabling the proprietor to print CIRCULARS, CARDS, CERTIFICATES, or STOCK, DEEDS, POSTERS, and all other kinds of JOB PRINTING, in a manner unsurpassed in the country. Particular attention paid to printing all kinds of Blanks. Orders for work promptly attended to when accompanied with CASH. "EXCELLENCE" is our motto.

How the Government is Willingly Swindled.

"The contract made by the Government with Russell & Major, for the transportation of stores to Utah, was of a most extraordinary nature. For carrying a barrel of flour from Leavenworth to Salt Lake City the price is \$42. But if cut off on the route, not only are the trains to be paid for by the Government, but the freight also is to be paid for as if it had been delivered at Salt Lake. This, you see, is giving the contractors a premium for suffering their trains to be cut off."

We extract the above information from a Washington letter of the 27th ult.

The newspapers have stated that these contractors, Russell & Major, are to receive the enormous sum of \$1,750,000 for transporting the necessary provisions (for the new army) from Leavenworth to Salt Lake City.

It is no wonder the contract amounts to the enormous sum of \$1 millions, when the contractors get, for transporting a single barrel of flour (196 pounds) \$42!! and it is moreover no wonder, why \$7 millions of appropriations fall short of paying the expenses of the Government, when favorites are rewarded in this way!

Billy Russell and Tom Major, be it remembered, are great pets of the present Administration—Border Ruffians of the choicest stamp, and who are wont to nod assent, if the "powers that be" say black is white, or white is black.

Billy is a Vermontor, born in the town of Sibley; and when he was a boy his eyes would flash fire at the sight of a silver dollar, and since he has grown to be a man his desire to be possessor of "de monish" has in no wise abated. Billy, with his oily, Yankee tongue, could in a flash convince the present Secretary of War—a veritable Virginian—that a barrel of flour would actually cost him nearly \$42 to transport it to Salt Lake City; and leave him only about ten per cent profit on the job! Billy himself has so often—when his interest was at stake—been convinced that white was actually black, that he has learnt the science of convincing others; and we have no doubt that Mr. Secretary Floyd actually believes that he is getting his army stores transported "dog cheap," but Vermont Billy will, when his contract for delivery is completed, as easily convince the Secretary that he (Billy) has in his pocket a half million dollars surplus—earned without consideration.

The Government officials say they can't "stir a peg" without Billy Russell, and Billy says he can't stir a peg without Tom Major, and when they pull together, Billy says they are the strongest team in the world, to transport army stores, and get paid three prices for doing it!

Some time since, Billy and Tom disagreed, and they dissolved partnership; but Billy soon found that transporting army stores was no go, without Major; for he, being a Methodist minister, had the happy knack of keeping their numerous teamsters in subjection while they were crossing the plains with their 3000 oxen and 600 wagons.

Tom is a raw-boned Kentuckian from the Green river diggin's—a kind of half horse, half alligator chap, on week days, but as mild as a lamb on Sundays, and his place (when the train is on the march) is at the head of the teamsters; and on Sundays he halts the train to spend the Sabbath, keeps the whisky out of sight, puts on a black straight-collared coat and white cravat, sleeks his hair down with bear's oil, and then mounts a wagon and preaches to the teamsters, the army escort, and to the Indians, if there be any.

Russell & Major, as we have said, are a strong team; Billy being a sprightly Vermont colt, and Tom a Kentucky draft horse—Billy managing the finances, and Tom doing the driving, whipping and preaching; and the Government—to wit: we, the people—paying for their labors the snug little sum of \$1,750,000. Economical Government, this, verily. They should admit Mayor Fernando Wood to the partnership, and then we might characterize it the "eminent" house of Russell, Major & Wood.—*Missouri Democrat.*

Kansas Climate.

Nothing can exceed the beauty and comfort of Kansas winters. We are so unused to such a climate that we can hardly make ourselves believe that it is winter. The brilliancy of the sun by day, and the bright moonlight nights—the heavens clear as a crystal—the lurid fires running on the prairies by night—all have the appearance of September in Illinois or Wisconsin.—The frost during the night forms a thin crust over the surface of small pools of water, and our small streams have not, this season, been clothed with an icy mantle, nor has the ground been frozen enough to withstand the rays of the sun. Mechanics have found but very few days that they could not work upon the outside of their frames. At this writing the sound of the hammer is heard around us, and "he-o-heave" greets our ears. Notwithstanding the scarcity of money and the hard times, preparations are being made for extensive building the coming spring and summer, and we are confident that our town will go ahead faster than it ever has. The numerous farmers settled in this vicinity are "fixing up" more comfortable—the favorable season being very much to their advantage and comfort, as many were without comfortable houses in the fall.—*Ottawa Jour.*

A letter in the *London Times*, of December 2d, from Caynors camp, describes the retreat after General Windham's defeat, and the panic in the camp. Windham lost his camp, with five hundred tents, the mess plate of six regiments, no end of tents, saddlery and harness in an undisciplined manner, and private property valued at £50,000. So it is said. He left his flank exposed, and made no provision for the safety of his camp. The conduct of the 94th regiment, the one that Havlock so often led to glorious victory, was admirable. They made a desperate charge, and lost many men. Two of the British guns opened on this band of heroes by mistake, at the same time that they were charged by the Hindoo cavalry. No wonder the gallant fellows were sad out of it. Windham is the officer who telegraphed—"All well. Havlock died two days ago."